The 21st Century Organ Series

Using the Roland VK-8M Drawbar Organ Module with the Rodgers Organ

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Frog Music Press

www.frogmusic.com

Setting up the VK-8M Module covers getting all the mechanical hookups set before **Powering up and resetting the VK-8M.** Volume Adjustments involve both setting a volume on the VK and the Organ as well. The real art in playing a drawbar organ is in **Setting the Drawbars**. Though they are numbered with foot lengths like organ pipes, just pulling on an 8' and 4' will not give the desired effect...careful adjustment of drawbars of different pitch levels and voicing of chords, that is, playing chords in patterns unlike the four part harmony of hymns, creates the true drawbar organ sound.

Since the Hammond Organ Presets included a cancel, it makes good sense for us to give instructions on **Creating a CANCEL Button**. Since MIDI Channels vary among different instruments, simple instructions guide you in **Configuring the VK-8M to play from the Rodgers Organ Keyboards** as well as Setting Drawbars for each division.

After you finish **Setting the Organ MIDI to Play the VK-8M Sounds** you are ready to play *Sweet Hour of Prayer.*

As we said, the settings are very important so take time and read **Settings to Understand and Use** and then use **A Typical Setting** to play *Pass Me Not* in a very relaxed, laid-back style.

Since the VK-8M lets you save 36 different registrations of settings, it's good to know all about **Saving Registrations using the VK-8M Registration Banks**. You may document your settings on our **Drawbar Registration Sheets**.

His Eye is on the Sparrow offers some more challenges, both in using effects and musical performance. Take a lot of time when you have holds...there is something glorious in the sound of the Rotary Sound slowing down and speeding up.

An added feature is that you may control all of this from the Rodgers pistons if you like, following our instructions on **Saving and Changing VK-8M Registrations on a Rodgers Organ**

Additional Effects take you through what you need to play *Count Your Blessings* using some tricks discovered and coveted by players over the years...and even teaches you how to play Glissandos without breaking fingernails or scratching the keys.

Noel Jones, January 30, 2005

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This book is dedicated to Duane Kuhn of Rodgers Organs
and, with great appreciation, to Mrs. Nita Norton, Organist
and The Rev. Walter H. Cross, Jr., Pastor,
of Washington Hills United Methodist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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Using the Roland VK-8M Module with a Rodgers Organs

1. Setting up the VK-8M Drawbar Module

• MIDI Cables:

These carry information from the organ to the module and from the module back to the organ.

Connect one MIDI cable to MIDI OUT on the VK-8M to MIDI IN on the organ. Then connect another MIDI Cable from MIDI OUT of the Organ to MIDI IN of the VK-8M

• AUDIO Cables:

Connect an audio cable from OUTPUT R to the Rodgers Organ AUX IN R and then OUTPUT L of the VK-8M to AUX IN L of the organ.

• POWER Cable

Connect the Power Cable to the module, wrapping the cable around T-shaped bracket to secure it, and then plug the AC plug into the wall.

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2. Powering Up and Resetting the VK-8M

Press the POWER Switch on the back of the module to turn it on.

In normal use, turn the module ON before turning the Organ on, and turn it off after the organ power has been turned off.

This can prevent possible noise from being heard through the organ speaker system.

FACTORY RESET

If this is the first time you are using the module, we recommend you reset it to clear all settings.

RESET

1. Hold down the following 3 buttons:

H-BAR MANUAL WRITE BANK

2. While continuing to hold the three buttons down, press POWER to turn the module on.

3. All lights will light, then the D BEAM light will go on.

4. All settings have now been returned to factory settings.

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3. Volume Adjustments

- VK-8M Module:

  Set the MASTER VOLUME to 12:00 position to start, adjust as necessary to taste.

  The VK-8M Module plays through the AUX channel on the organ.

- Rodgers Organ:

  In the Organ Display window, find the AUX IN page and adjust the master volume, bass, treble and gain boost to taste.

  Save these settings by holding both SET and CANCEL until the window reads that the settings have been saved. Press CANCEL to go back to the main window.

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4. Setting a Piston on a Rodgers Organ to Play the VK-8M

Configuring the Organ

1. Select GT MIDI A, SW MIDI A, PD MIDI A so they all light.

   On Trillium or other Organs that have MIDI Pistons or Tabs, push to select.

   On Insignia and Allegiant Organs, press the TOP of the MIDI /ORCH Rocker Tabs.

2. The voices from the VK-8M will play once you have finished configuring the VX-8M.

3. Save these MIDI settings to a piston for quick recall.

4. What if you have more than one MIDI Module?

   Use MIDI THRU to connect one module to another.

   Use the VOLUME control on the Modules to turn up the VK-8M

   When the VK is playing, MIDI Channels 4-10 are available on the other MIDI Module. MUTE CH 1-3 on the Other Module if it plays while its channels are played.

Expression

The GREAT EXP pedal on the Insignia and Allegiant will control the volume on the VK-8M.

On other Rodgers Organs, use the MIDI Window to change GT 1 from EXP to VOL. Save this change the the master piston you set for the VK-8M above.

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5. Setting the Drawbars

• Drawbars

There is an excellent explanation of how the drawbars are used in the VK-8M Manual, however, as a quick rule of thumb, the higher the number showing on the drawbar, the louder that pitch will sound.

You may save your drawbar settings and other settings on either:

1. The 8 Registration Buttons and 8 Banks of Memories on the VK-8M itself.

2. Pistons and Memory Banks on a Rodgers Organ

When using the Registrations Buttons, the drawbars do not move.

If you are playing a Registration and want to change the drawbar settings, remember that the drawbar positions as shown may not reflect the sounds you are hearing, since the Registrations are blind (do not cause the drawbars to move).

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6. Creating a CANCEL button

- CANCEL

A traditional organ often has a cancel button that clears all registrations.

The earlier Hammonds had a preset key that would cancel any preset key in use.

On the VK-8M we recommend setting all drawbars off (pushed in) and saving this to Memory Bank 1, Button 6.

This button will then shut all sounds off whenever you push it, letting you set new registrations by hand.

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7. Configuring the VK-8M to play from the Rodgers Organ Keyboards

Have the Rodgers Organ tuned on and all MIDI Cables Connected.

1. Hold down BANK and press the H-BAR PART
All six Registration Buttons flash red.
This is the programming mode for MIDI channels

2. Press Percussion SLOW
This sets the MIDI Channels to match your Rodgers Organ.

3. Press WRITE
This saves the settings

Settings are now:

H_BAR PART COLOR	Organ	MIDI CH
RED	SWELL	2
GREEN	GREAT	1
AMBER	PEDAL	3

Note: you might find it easy to keep track by remembering that the SWELL has the most RED engraved stops (the reeds) and GREAT and GREEN both begin with GR.

CHECKING MIDI IN (from Organ) CONNECTION

If the MIDI light just below the “M” in VK-8M at the top left of the Module lights when you play a note on the organ, the MIDI OUT cable from the organ to MIDI IN of the VK-8M is working properly.

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8. Setting Drawbars for each division

The H-BAR PART light

The color of the H-BAR PART button changes each time you press it.

RED	Swell
GREEN	Great
AMBER	Pedal
off	-

To set up for playing a solo melody on the Swell, chords on the Great and pedal...

Press H-BAR PART until it shows:	RED and draw	808808000	(Swell)
	GREEN and draw	008800000	(Great)
	AMBER and draw	804000000*	(Pedal)

Since both keyboards have the exact same sounds, either manual may be used for solo or accompaniment, depending only on how you set the drawbars. In *Sweet Hour of Prayer* arranged by Lauren Gadd use the registration shown above. As you can see from the drawbar settings, the Swell Keyboard is louder and fuller than the Great, so whenever the melody is played, take it on the Swell. Begin on the Great and keep to the Great everything but hte Melody.

*Pedal settings on the traditional Hammond had only two drawbars, the 16' and 8'. They are the first and third drawbars. All notation of drawbar settings for the VK-8M pedal that follow will have three numerals with the middle one always "0", since the second drawbar (5 1/3') is not used.

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9. Setting the Organ MIDI to Play the VK-8M Sounds.

On all Rodgers with MIDI but the Insiginia & Allegiant Organs:

Press The following MIDI Couplers: MIDI TO SW
MIDI TO GT
MIDI TO PD

If you have MIDI A and MIDI B Couplers. use the A set.

We will be setting MIDI Couplers with Registration Information from the VK later, but at this point these pistons will play the VK-8M.

Insiginia and Allegiant Organs:

HOLD SET and Press the Upper Half of ORCH/MIDI GT.
It will begin flashing.
Press the Bottom Half.
The light will stay lit.

Repeat this on ORCH/MIDI GSW and ORCH/MIDI PD.

Play *Sweet Hour of Prayer* on the next page using the registration on the VK-8M from the previous page and these MIDI Couplers

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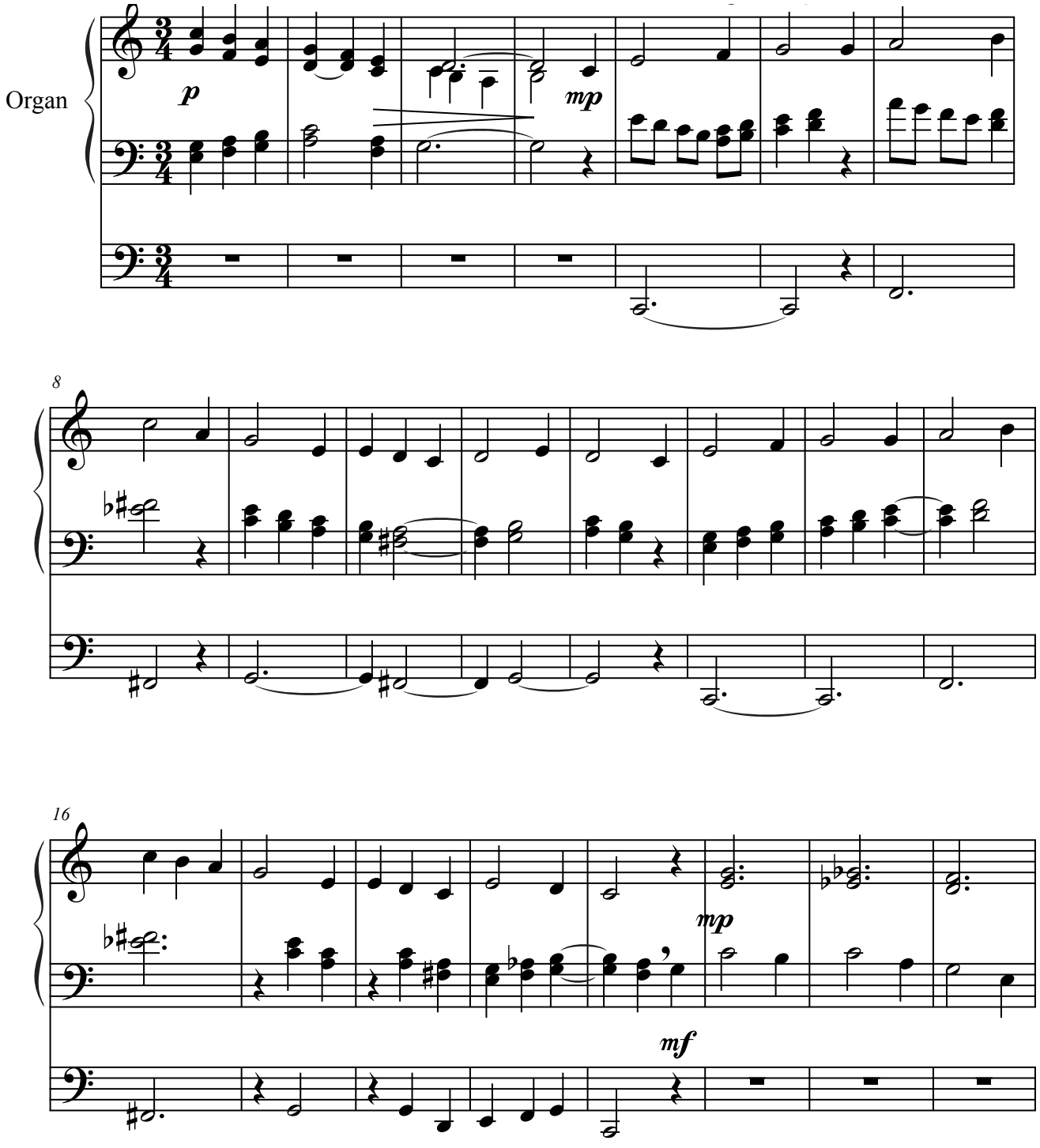
Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Bradbury
Arranged by Lauren Gadd

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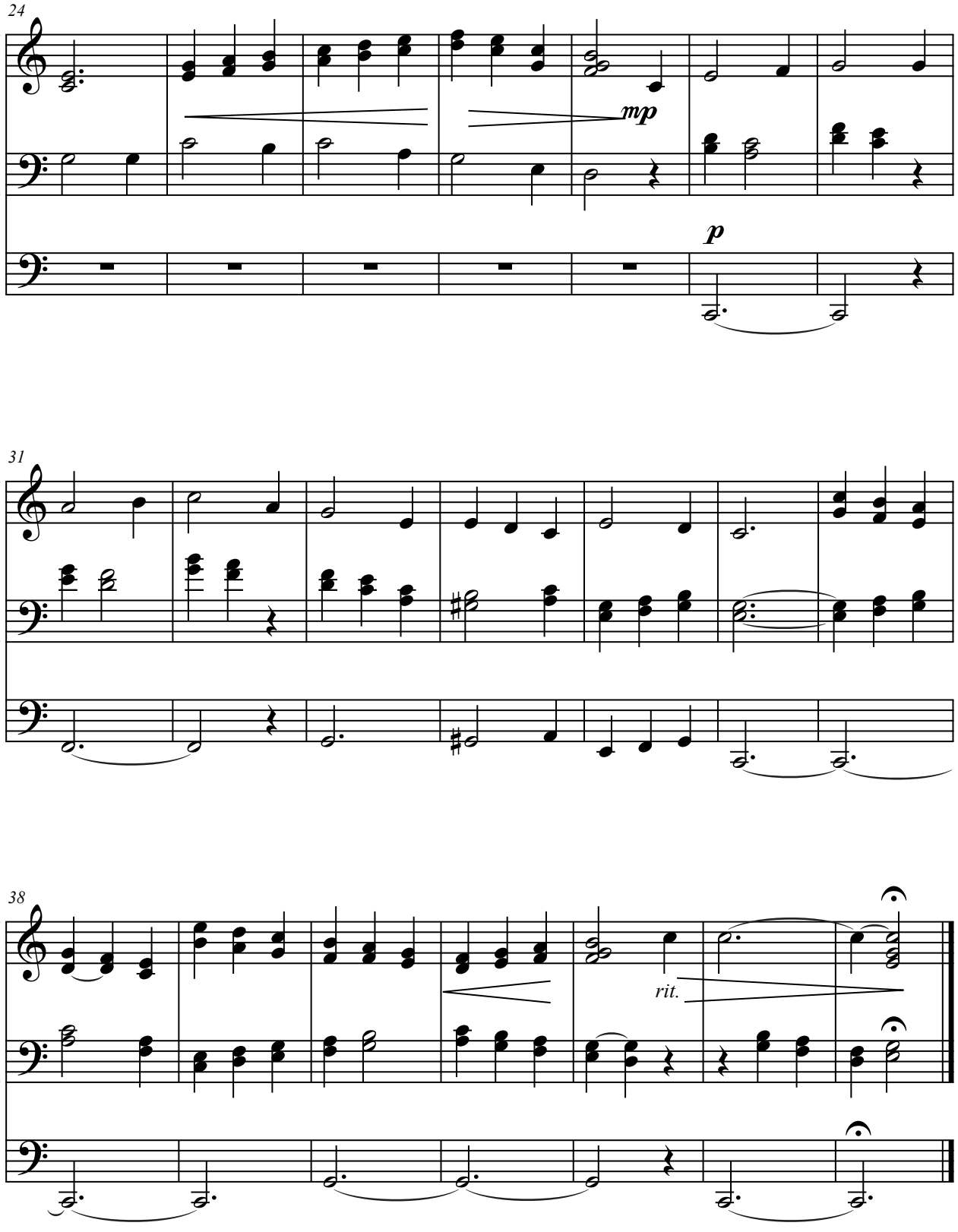
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10. Effects to Understand and Use

1. DRAWBARS choose the sound.

2. PERCUSSION gives a PING Attack Sound to new notes played.

   If all PERCUSSION lights are off, percussion is off.

   Your choices to adjust Percussion sounds are:

   2ND or 3RD (different harmonics)

   SOFT - level of the sound

   SLOW - speed at which it sounds.

3. VIBRATO and CHORUS

   These are turned on by pressing ON.

   There are 3 Vibrato settings and 3 Chorus Settings.
   These are explained int he Owner's Manual.

4. ROTARY SOUND

   Speed lights show the current spin.

   BRAKE stops, SLOW/FAST changes the spin.

   Easiest way to use this is to:

   Press the black button in the D BEAM Section until the RT SPEED LED lights.
   Waving your hand over the infrared indicator changes the color of the D BEAM light and the Rotary Spin speed.

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11. A Typical Drawbar Organ Setting

Enter the following setting:

1. DRAWBARS

Press H-BAR PART until it shows:	RED and draw	808808000	(Swell)
	GREEN and draw	008800000	(Great)
	AMBER and draw	804000000	(Pedal)

2. PERCUSSION

PERCUSSION lights off.

3. VIBRATO and CHORUS

Set to OFF

4. ROTARY SOUND

Press the black button in the D BEAM Section until RT SPEED led lights.

Wave your hand over the D BEAM Light to select FAST

5. Hold down WRITE and press Button 1

Use this setting for *Pass Me Not*.

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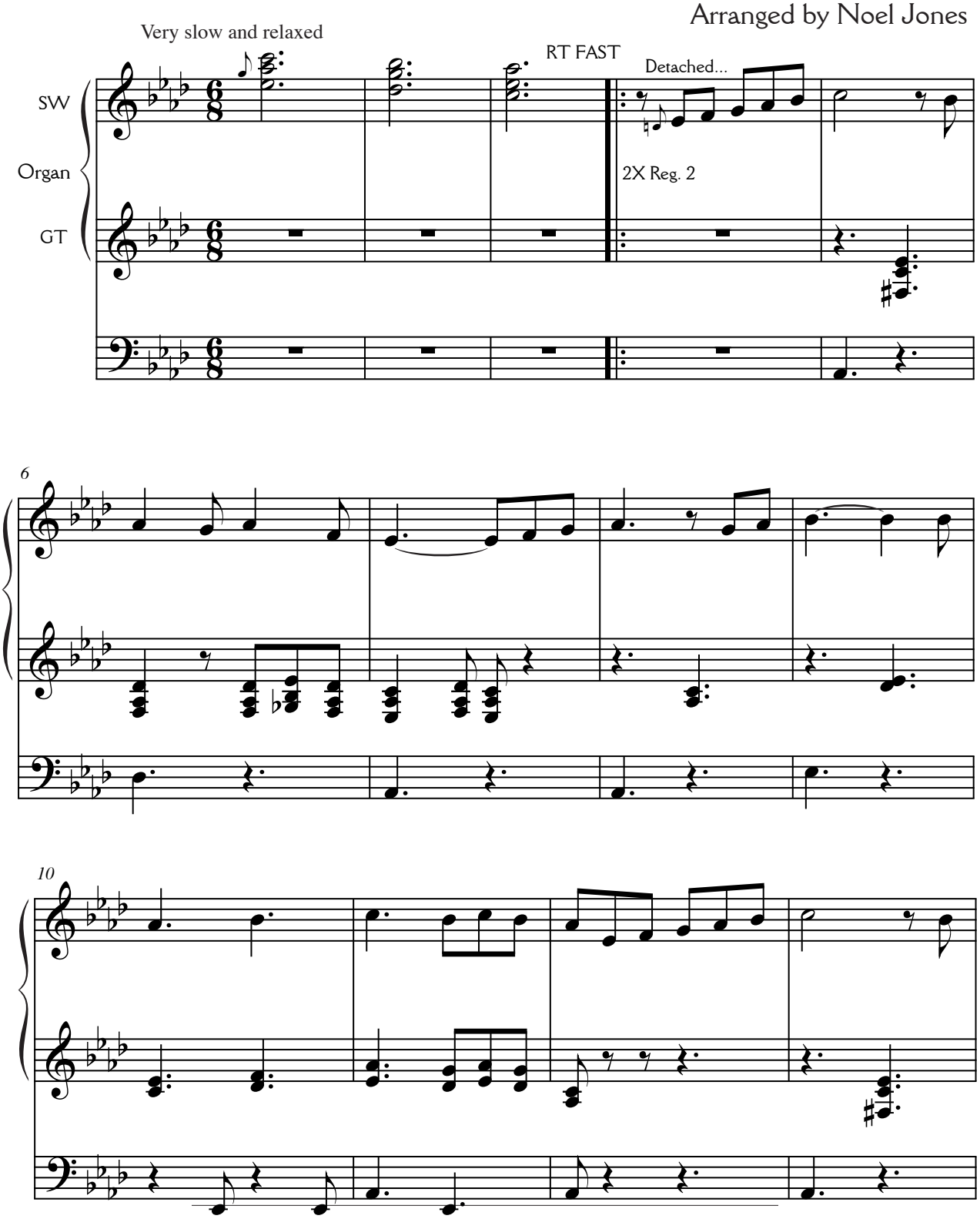
Pass Me Not

Drawbar Registration 1 - RT SLOW

William H. Doane
Arranged by Noel Jones

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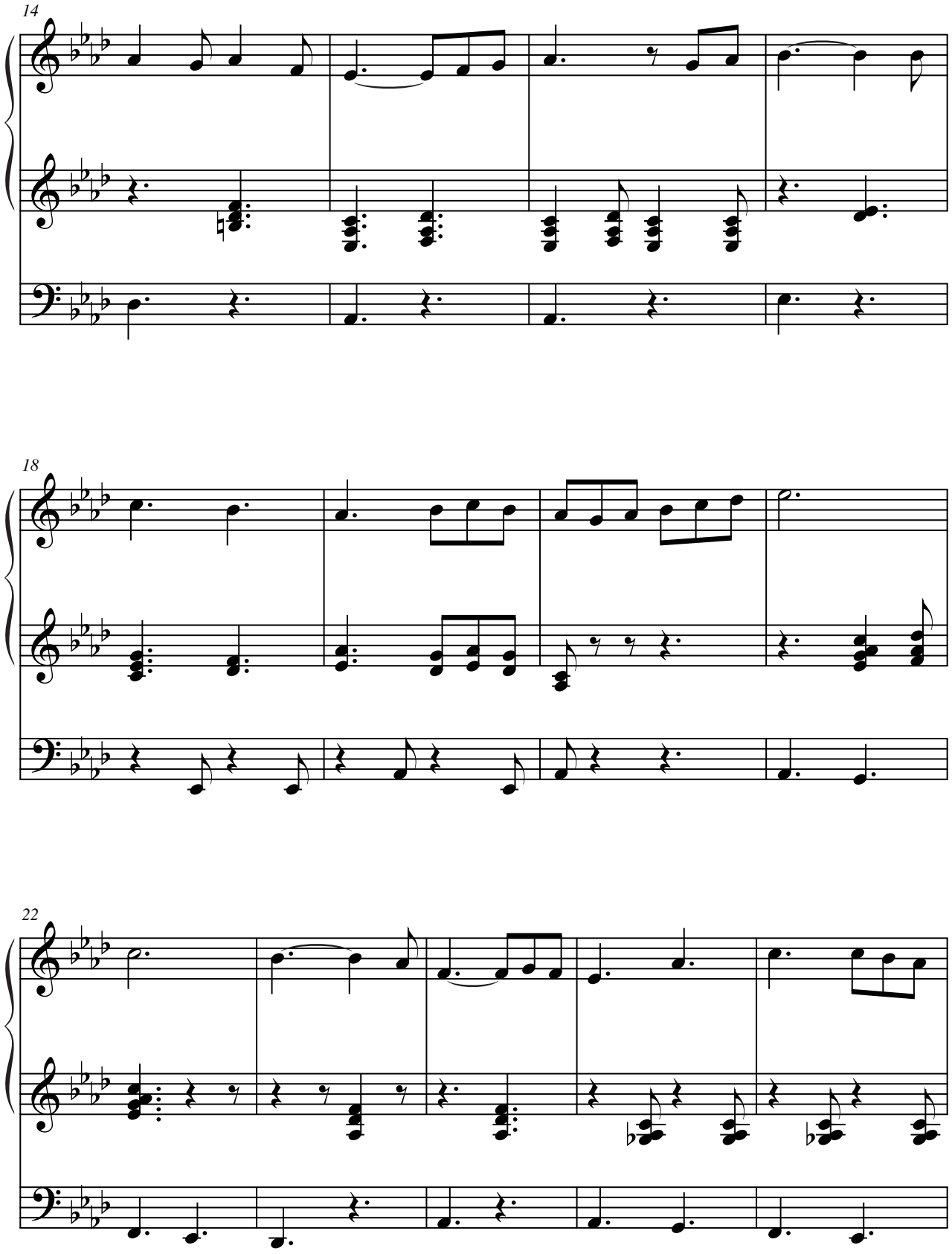
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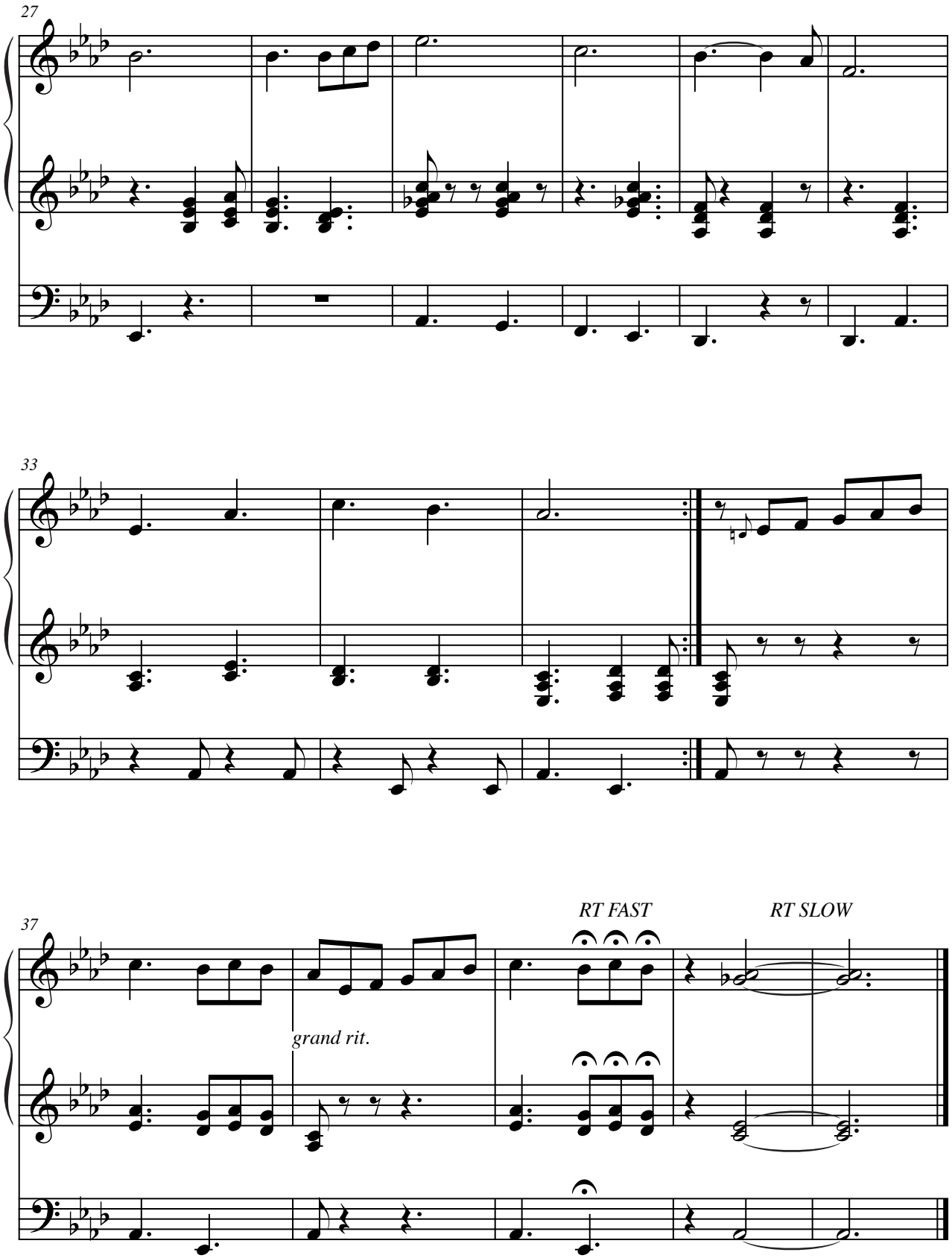
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12. Saving Registrations using the VK-8M Registration Banks

Saving the settings from the last page:

HOLD DOWN the red button labeled WRITE.

All 6 Registration Button lights will begin flashing.

While they are flashing, press 1.

It will flash by itself as it saves the setting and then remain lit.

You have successfully saved your first setting to 1.

SETTING MORE REGISTRATIONS

Press 3RD under PERCUSSION.

Wave your hand over the D BEAM to set the ROTARY SOUND to SLOW

Now, hold down WRITE and press 2.

You now may play registration 1 and then press 2 to go from a smooth Gospel Setting with fast Rotary to add Percussion attack and slow the Rotary Down.

These settings and others you make will stay set unless you change them or do a RESET.

Once you have set all 6, press BANK to move to the second bank, where you may set 6 more. There are 6 banks, 36 total registrations may be saved.

Sounds do not change when BANK is pressed. They will change when a new Registration number is pressed in the new bank.

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Setting	BK	#	Upper	Lower	Pedal	BEAM	Rotary	VB|CH	PERC
			RED	GREEN	AMBER				
	1	1	808800000	880000000	804	RT	FAST	OFF	OFF
	1	2	808800000	880000000	804	RT	SLOW	OFF	3RD
	1	3	848000000	850000000	804	RT	FAST	C3/ON	OFF
	1	4	888400080	208400000	806	RT	SLOW	OFF	OFF
	1	5	888888888	808400000	808	RT	FAST	C3/ON	OFF
Cancel*	1	6	"000000000	"000000000	"000	RT	SLOW	OFF	OFF
	2	1							
	2	2							
	2	3							
	2	4							
	2	5							
	2	6							
	3	1							
	3	2							
	3	3							
	3	4							
	3	5							
	3	6							
	4	1							
	4	2							
	4	3							
	4	4							
	4	5							
	4	6							
	5	1							
	5	2							
	5	3							
	5	4							
	5	5							
	5	6							
	6	1							
	6	2							
	6	3							
	6	4							
	6	5							
	6	6							
*Cancel is a silent setting.									

settings

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Setting	BK	#	Upper	Lower	Pedal	BEAM	Rotary	VB|CH	PERC
			RED	GREEN	AMBER				
	1	1							
	1	2							
	1	3							
	1	4							
	1	5							
	1	6							
	2	1							
	2	2							
	2	3							
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	6	1							
	6	2							
	6	3							
	6	4							
	6	5							
	6	6							

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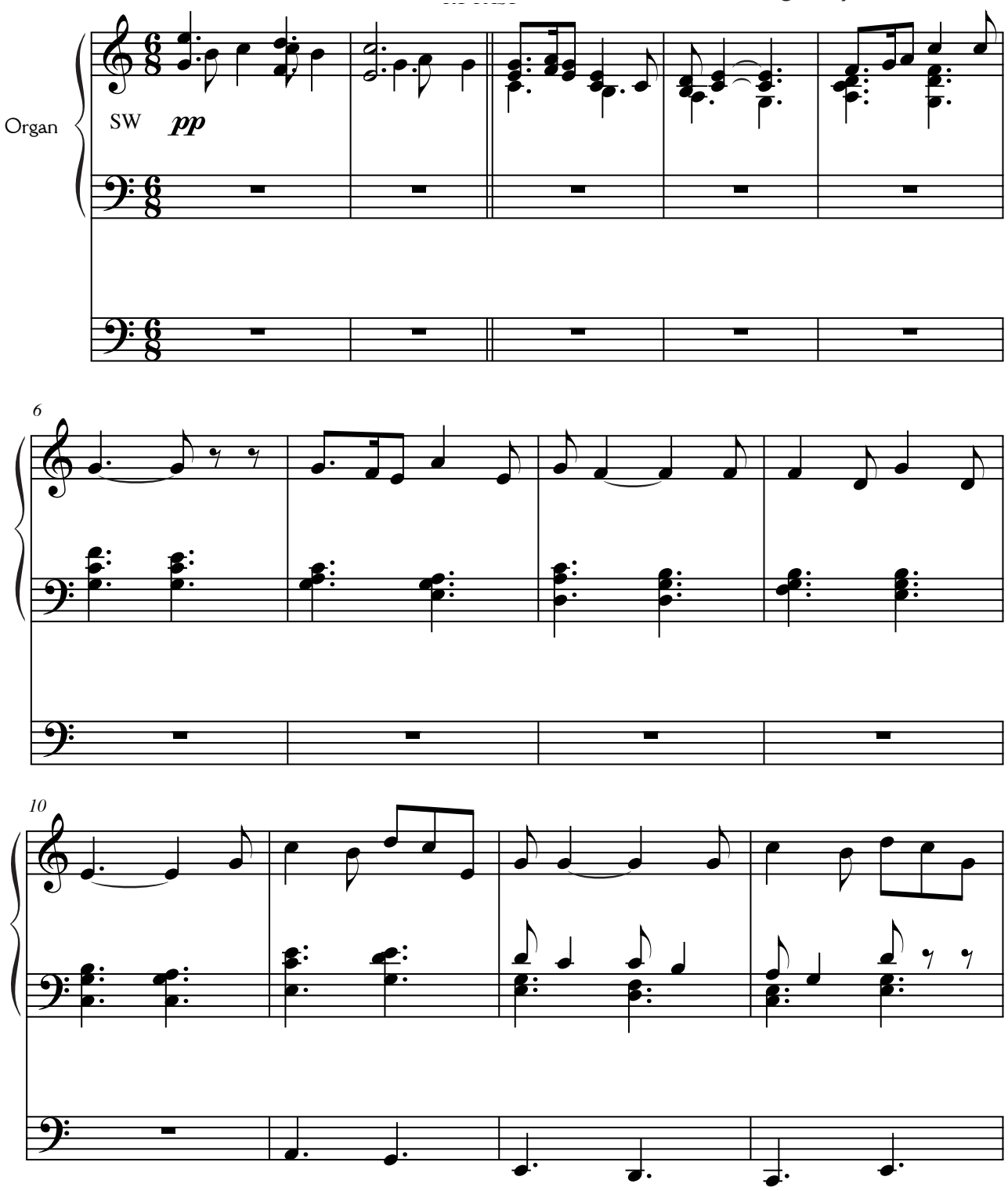
His Eye is on the Sparrow

Drawbar Registration 4

Charles H. Gabriel
Arranged by Noel Jones

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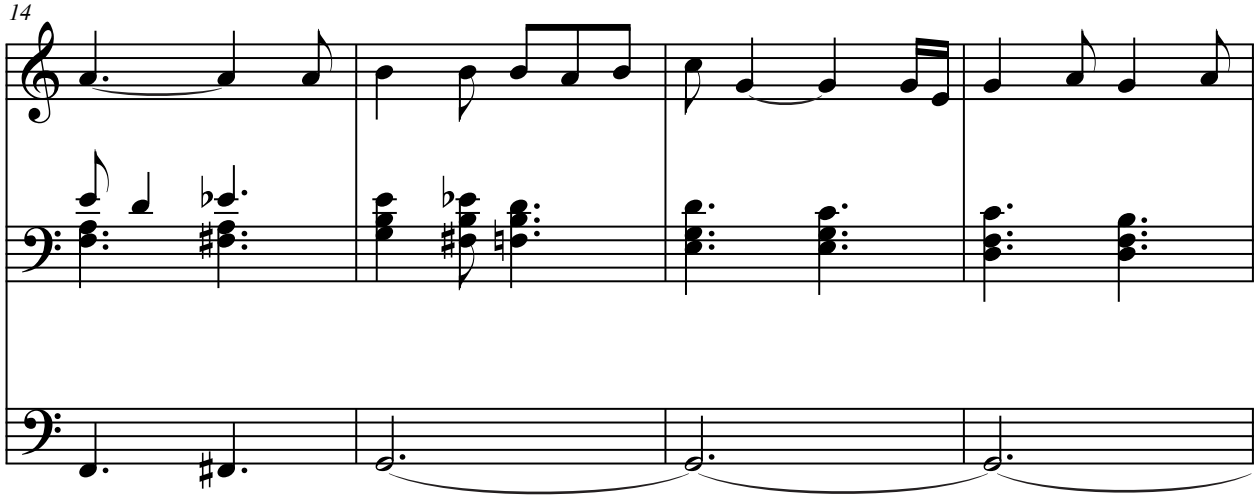
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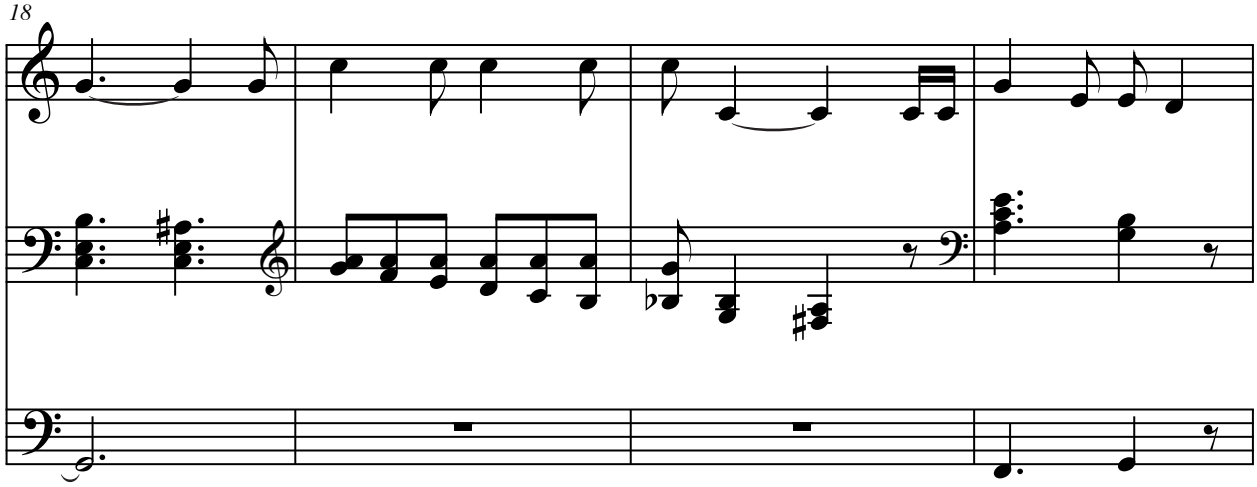
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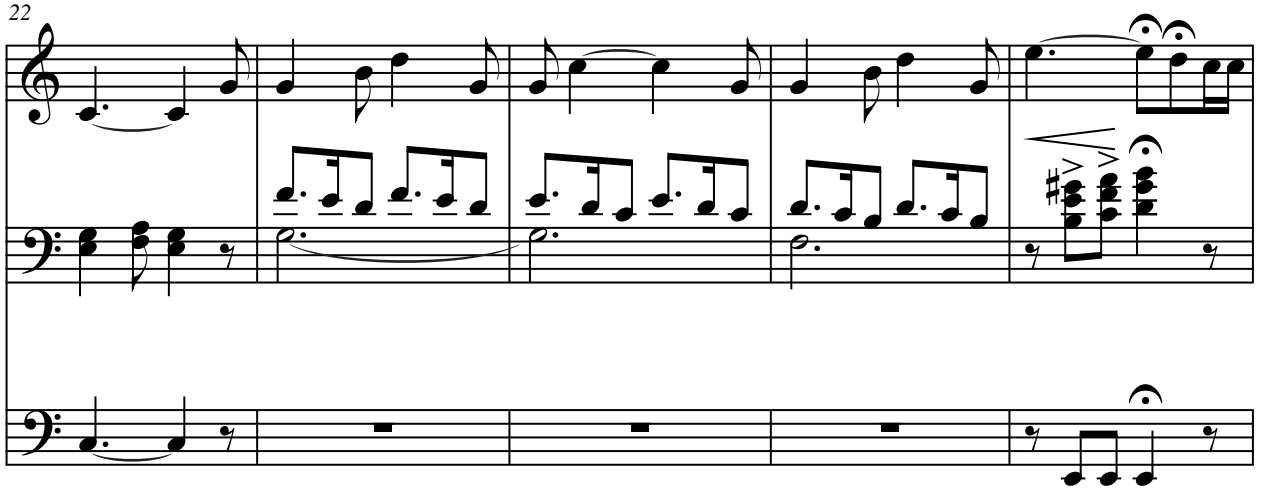
RT SLOW

RT FAST

RT SLOW

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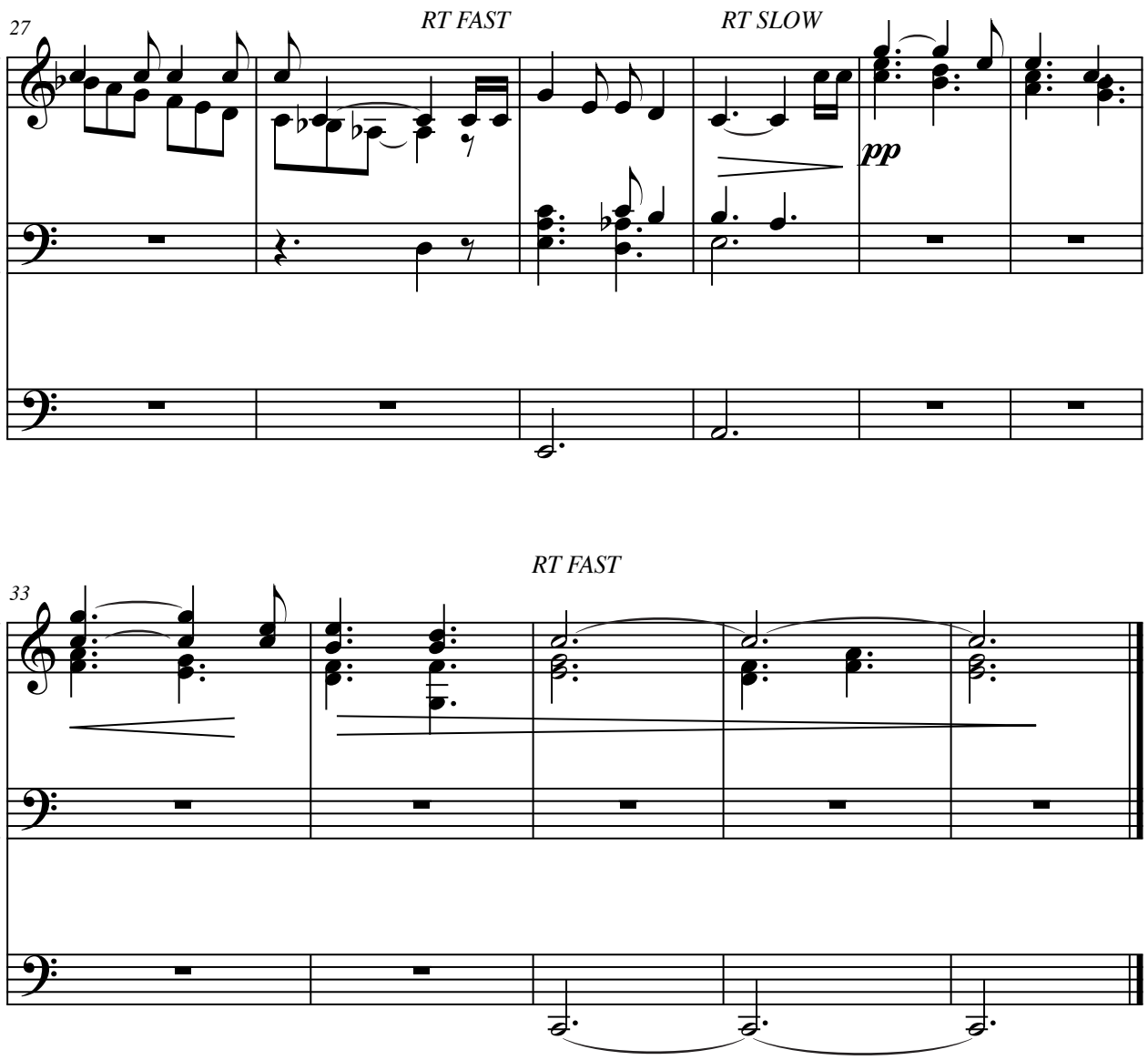
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13. Additional Effects

D BEAM

Many of the effects such as OVERDRIVE, LEAKAGE, AMPLIFIER are used to recreate sounds created by Rock and Roll Bands....

Some effects are useful for flashy playing such as:

CRESCENDO

Lowering your hand over the D BEAM while playing will automatically change the sound to: FULL DRAWBART AND ROTARY FAST, then raise the hand to go back to the original setting.

TW BRAKE

Turning the Hammond Organ off while playing would result in sound dropping in pitch and level.

GLISS

To activate GLISS, hold the black button down for about 2 seconds until all 5 led's light up.

Play Glissandos up and down by waving your hand up and down over the D BEAM.

NOTE: *Count Your Blessings* is written so that you can get one hand free when necessary, holding the LH and RH notes with one hand during the three EFFECTS listed above.

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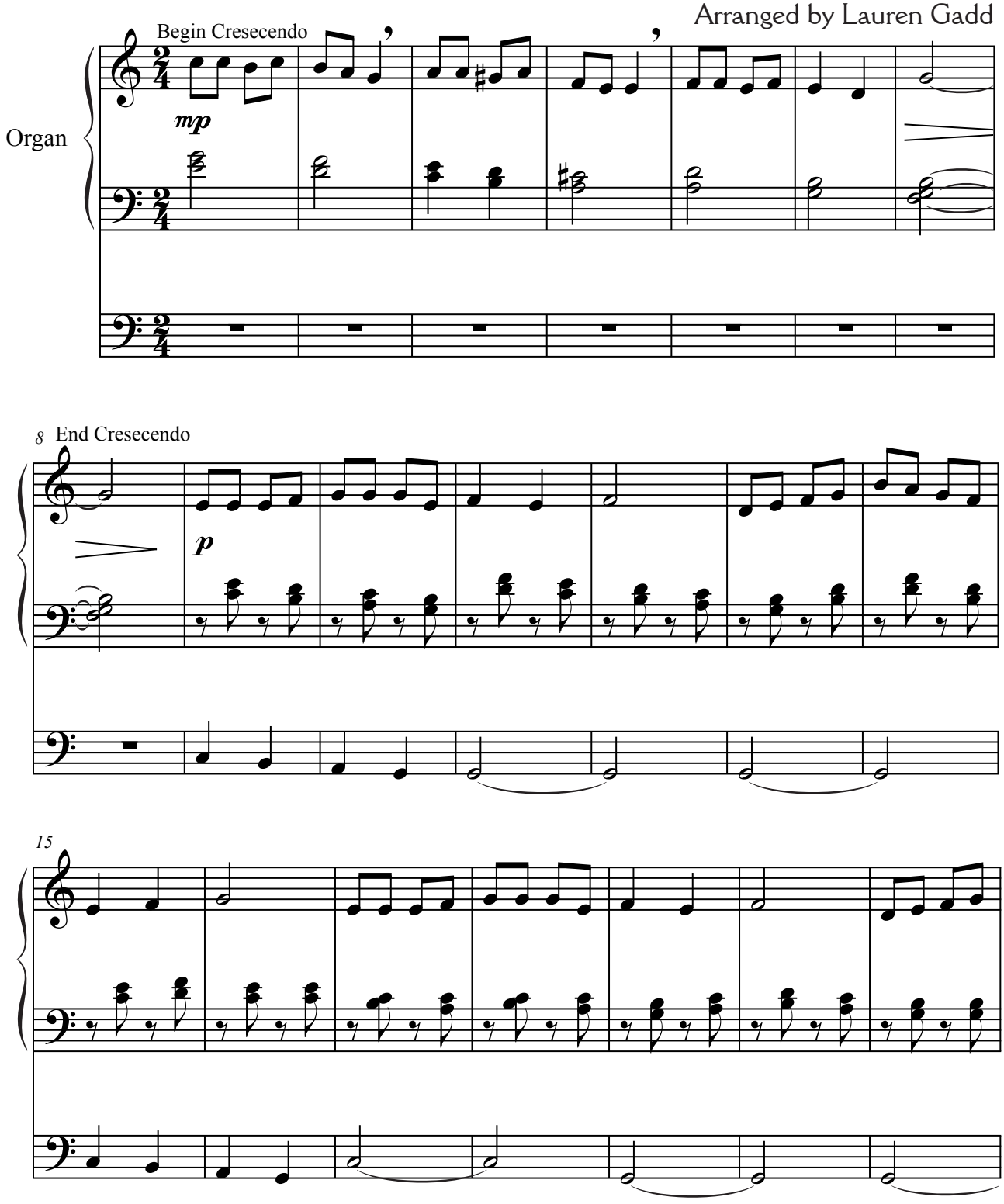
Count Your Blessings

Edmond O. Excell
Arranged by Lauren Gadd

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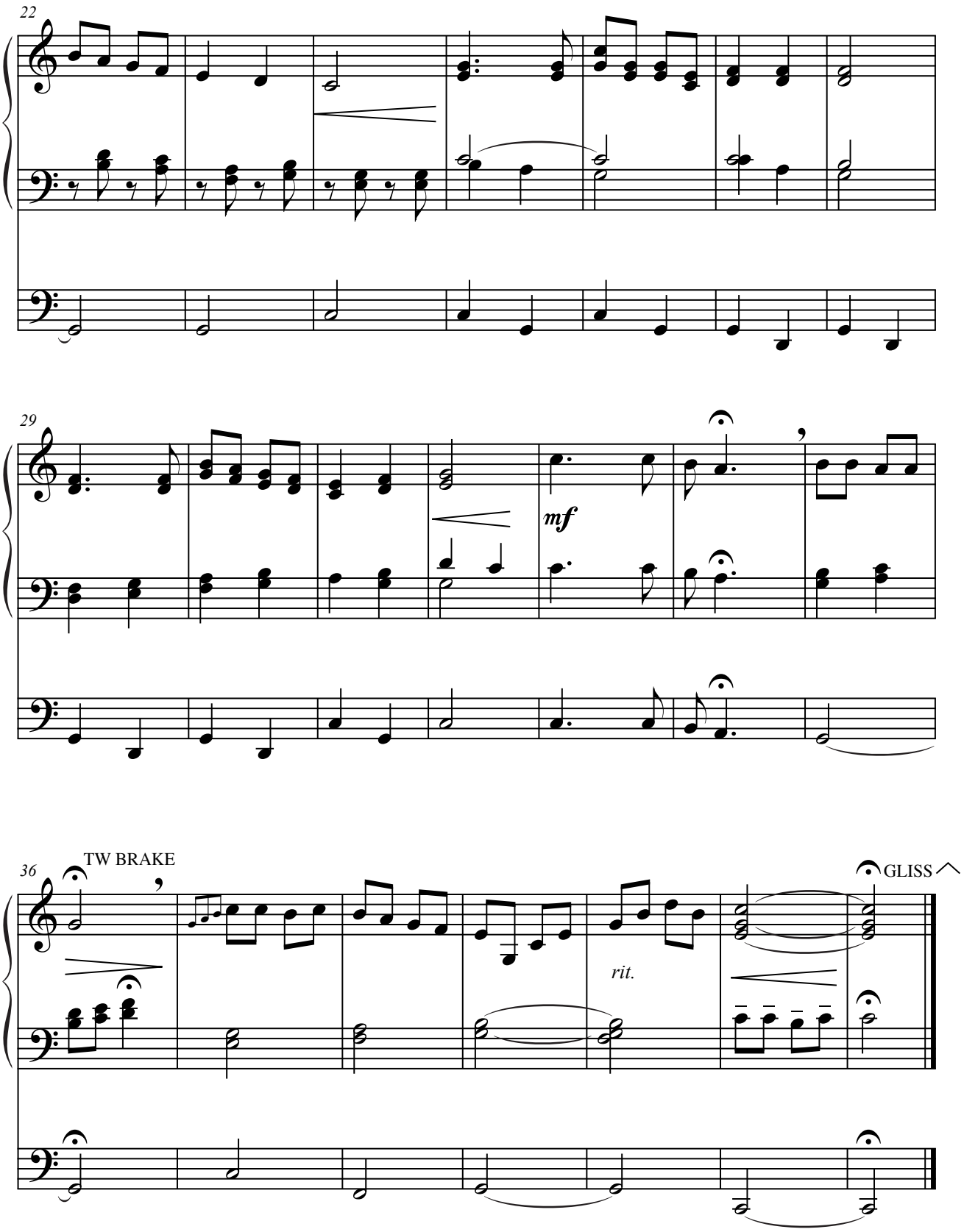
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14. Expression

Expression

General

The traditional drawbar organ had one expression pedal for the entire organ. The VK-8M follows the same design. Volume differences between the manuals and the pedals are acheived by increasing and reducing the number that each drawbar is set to.

Insignia & Allegiant Organs

These organs arrive with expression activated for the VK-8M. To make it work, go into the organ USER MENU (hold SET and click left using the SELECT Knob) until you find the Expression level window. It may show NORMAL, ppp or pppp....and must be set for each keyboard to pppp to match the expression range of the VK-8M.

Rodgers Trillium or PDI Organs.

These organs require you to go into the MIDI menu (hold SET and click right using the SELECT Knob) and change the default, which may be EXP to VOL on the GREAT Division.

To make it work, go into the organ USER MENU (hold SET and click left using the SELECT Knob) until you find the Expression level window. It may show NORMAL, ppp or pppp....and must be set for each keyboard to pppp to match the expression range of the VK-8M.

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Reference Materials

Beauty in the B
The Hammond Organ
By Mark Vail
Second Edition
Keyboard Musician's Library
Backbeat Books
www.backbeatbooks.com
$29.95

Hammond Organ Complete
Tunes, Tones and Techniques for Drawbar Kyboards
CD Included
By Dave Limina
Berklee Press
www.berkleepress.com
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DVD and VHS TAPE
How to Play Hammond B-3 Organ
Reverend John Fullard
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